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Ottawa, May 9, 1940, 5 p.m. - The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issues today the first crop report of the present season, indicating (1) the intended acreage of principal field crops as reported by crop correspondents at May 1; (2) the progress of spring seeding and (3) winter-killing and condition at April 30, of fall wheat, fall rye and hay and clover meadows. The intended acreages shown in this report are merely indicative of farmers' plans at the end of April and may be altered by subsequent conditions affecting seeding. An effort is made, however, to eliminate the habitual bias in the 'Intentions' figures as disclosed by the experience of previous years.

SUMMARY

Intentions to Plant, 1940.- A six per cent increase in the spring wheat area for 1940 is indicated, if farmers' intentions at April 30 are carried out. Allowing for a minor reduction in this year's fall wheat area remaining for harvest, the total wheat area in Canada for 1940 is reported at 28,245,900 acres as compared with 26,756,500 acres in 1939. This year's increase comprises 1,489,400 acres. Small increases in actual area are indicated in the Maritime Provinces, Quebec and British Columbia, with the main increase occurring in the Prairie Provinces. Ontario alone will have a slightly reduced wheat area this year. Some further displacement of Durum wheat seedings by the rust-resistant bread-wheat varieties is indicated in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. The 1940 area to be sown to oats at 12,880,100 acres is just slightly above last year's area. Small increases are reported in eastern Canada, Alberta and British Columbia, which are almost offset by decreases in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. A 3 per cent increase in the barley area places the latter at 4,483,600 acres for 1940. All the provinces show increases except Ontario and Manitoba. A 2 per cent increase in the plantings of mixed grains and a 1 per cent decrease in those of spring rye are indicated by the farmers' intentions. The flaxseed area is expected to be enlarged by 14 per cent to 350,300 acres. An increase of 3 per cent in the potato area expanding the latter to 533,700 acres is also expected, with small increases indicated in each of the provinces.

Fall Wheat.- The area of fall wheat remaining for harvest in Ontario amounts to 711,000 acres, which is 24,000 acres less than the area harvested in 1939. The area winter-killed this season amounted to 37,000 acres or 5 per cent of the area sown, the same percentage loss as occurred during the previous winter. The condition of fall wheat at April 30 was 97 compared with 98 at the same date in 1939.

Fall Rye.- Winter-killing of fall rye averaged 4 per cent in the producing areas of Canada, the percentage loss being unchanged from a year ago. The area remaining for harvest in 1940 amounts to 737,700 acres, compared with 890,800 acres harvested in 1939. The condition of fall rye at April 30 averaged 89 in comparison with 93 a year earlier.

Hay and Clover.- Winter-killing of hay and clover amounted to 4 per cent in 1939-40 as compared with 6 per cent in the winter of 1938-39. The condition of hay and clover meadows at April 30, 1940, was 97, unchanged from a year ago.

Spring Seeding.- Up to April 30, 1940, only 16 per cent of the spring wheat area in the Prairie Provinces had been sown in contrast with 42 per cent of the seeding completed by April 30 a year earlier. The spring season has been one of the latest on record in Alberta, and has been later than usual in Saskatchewan. Manitoba farmers, however, were able to complete 59 per cent of their wheat seeding by the end of April, compared with 14 per cent in Saskatchewan and 1 per cent in Alberta. Seeding of coarse grains has also been delayed in the Prairie Provinces. Ontario seeding at the end of April was ahead of last year's late operations, while spring seeding in British Columbia was ahead of normal.

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GENERAL CROP CONDITIONS

There was considerable variation in the progress of farm work in Canada up to the end of April. Generally, the season was late, but in Quebec spring operations were about on normal schedule, while work in British Columbia was two weeks ahead of normal. Work on the land was retarded by snow and backward weather in the Maritime Provinces, while rain caused delay in Ontario, in the southern and central areas of Manitoba, in the southern and western sections of Saskatchewan and in the central and northern parts of Alberta. Excellent conditions for spring tillage prevailed in Ontario. Surface moisture conditions in central and southern Manitoba and southern Saskatchewan were satisfactory, but in many areas timely rains were needed to aid the deficiency of subsoil moisture. Poor seed bed conditions were reported from northern Manitoba. Pastures and hay meadows came through the winter with very little loss. In the Maritime Provinces and in Manitoba some of the new seedings of hay and clover in the late summer of 1939 were seriously affected by drought conditions in the fall. Live stock came through the winter in generally fair to good condition but indications are that supplies of feed have been heavily drawn on and at least average crops will be needed this summer to replenish these supplies.

Since May 1. - Generally warmer and brighter weather over the Dominion speeded up spring work. Seeding, however, is still behind schedule, particularly in the Prairie Provinces. In Alberta spring work is quite late but in view of the abundant moisture supplies the coming of warm weather should bring the grain on very quickly once it is in the ground. Moisture conditions in northern Manitoba and central and north-eastern Saskatchewan are still deficient and some slight soil drifting was reported in these provinces.

Maritime Provinces

There was still a fairly heavy covering of snow over a large part of the farming area at the end of April. A heavy snow storm was experienced in Prince Edward Island and parts of New Brunswick during the last week of the month. In general the season is from one to two weeks later than average. The presence of snow on the ground and the late start of growth makes it difficult to assess the damage from winter-killing. It is considered, however, that because of the early and ample snow covering which remained on the ground all winter the loss during the 1939-40 season will be considerably below average. Where hay meadows and pastures have been bared there is little evidence of any serious winter-killing. New hay and clover seedings of last summer, however, show below-average stands because of drought conditions prevailing during seeding time last year. In some sections shortages of feed are reported and the need of early pasturing facilities emphasized. Reports from the apple sections of Nova Scotia indicate that operations during 1940 will be hampered by lack of finances. There were indications of rising costs of hired labour during the 1940 crop season.

Quebec

Stands of clover and alfalfa were well protected during the winter by a heavy blanket of snow and little frost damage occurred. Work on the land got under way in the last days of April and the weather was particularly favourable to ploughing and harrowing operations. Seeding had not commenced but was expected to be general in two to three weeks. According to reports received from correspondents and agriculturists the acreage of all grain crops with the exception of rye will be increased.

Ontario

Although seeding commenced later than usual, the land was in excellent shape for spring tillage and made an excellent seed bed. Rainfall during the first part of May delayed seeding operations but was very favourable for the development of winter wheat and hay and pasture crops. Losses of clover and grass from winter-killing were much smaller than usual. Live stock came through the winter in fair to good condition.

Manitoba

The southern part of the province experienced an unusually mild winter with very little snow until March when heavy falls took place. The late snow, together with spring rains, delayed work on the land and the season is from one to two weeks late. The surface moisture conditions were reported to be very good but subsoil moisture conditions are below normal. Timely rains will be needed during the early part of the growing season for satisfactory plant development. In the northerly sections of Manitoba precipitation has been very limited and seeding conditions are the poorest in years. General seeding conditions in Manitoba are considerably poorer than last year. Now seedings of clover and grass in the late summer were seriously affected by shortage of moisture during the fall and stands will be quite light. In addition, clover suffered some damage from weevil infestation. Live stock are in fair condition.

Saskatchewan

Precipitation during the autumn and winter was much lighter than usual. However, heavy falls of snow in early April in the southern and western parts of the province improved moisture conditions. There was a deficiency of moisture in the south-eastern, east-central and northern sections. Cool, backward weather retarded spring work over most of the province. Seeding got under way earliest in the east-central section where the land dried rapidly. In the eastern and northern parts of the province timely rains and a plentiful supply of moisture will be necessary during the 1940 season because of the inadequate moisture supplies prevailing in the spring. A much smaller infestation of grasshoppers is expected during this season. Soil drifting has been reported from a few points but not a great deal of damage has occurred. Live stock came through the winter in good condition.

Alberta

In the southern part of the province seeding has been retarded by the generous rains received in the early spring. Moisture conditions throughout southern Alberta are the best in some years and present prospects point to a good start for the 1940 seedings. In some districts there has been considerable new breaking due in part to conditions favourable for this work and in part to anticipated demands for greater production. In some districts supplies of feed grains are reported to be low as a result of the large numbers of live stock being carried on farms. The moisture conditions in northern Alberta have been very satisfactory but seeding will be considerably delayed. Prospects point to favourable growth of hay and pastures when the warmer weather arrives.

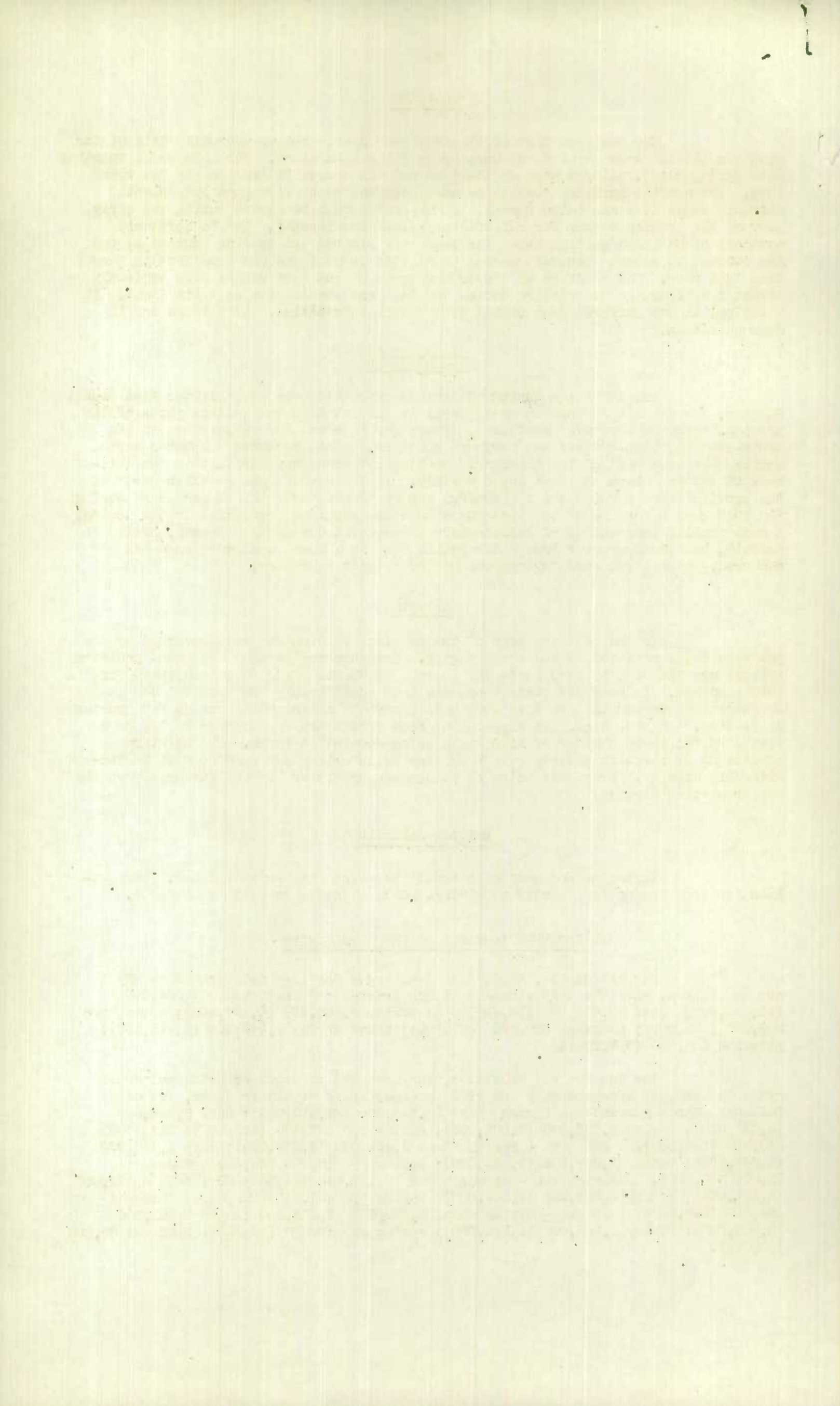
British Columbia

Spring opened generally about two weeks earlier than usual. The outlook for crop production is very promising. Soil moisture conditions are good.

INTENDED ACREAGES OF PRINCIPAL CROPS

For all Canada, the intended acreages for 1940 as reported at May 1 are as follows, with the 1939 acreages within brackets: Spring wheat 27,534,900 (26,021,500); oats 12,880,100 (12,789,900); barley 4,483,600 (4,347,400); spring rye 209,000 (211,000); flaxseed 350,300 (307,100); mixed grains 1,247,100 (1,218,100); potatoes 533,700 (517,700);

For the Prairie Provinces, the intended acreages of principal grain crops in 1940, as compared with the 1939 acreages shown within brackets, are as follows: Three Provinces - Spring wheat 27,323,000 (25,813,000); oats 8,224,000 (8,227,000); barley 3,736,000 (3,607,000); spring rye 197,300 (199,000); flaxseed 338,400 (297,500); Manitoba - Spring wheat 3,496,000 (3,201,000); oats 1,363,000 (1,377,000); barley 1,304,000 (1,344,000); spring rye 28,500 (26,400); flaxseed 90,000 (70,300); Saskatchewan - Spring wheat 15,197,000 (14,233,000); oats 4,020,000 (4,144,000); barley 1,229,000 (1,149,000); spring rye 105,900 (110,300); flaxseed 198,400 (187,200); Alberta - Spring wheat 8,630,000 (8,579,000); oats 2,841,000 (2,706,000); barley 1,208,000 (1,114,000); spring rye 62,900 (62,300); flaxseed 50,000 (40,000).



PROGRESS OF SEEDING

As usual at the end of April, practically no seeding had been done in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec. Elsewhere in Canada the percentages seeded by April 30 were as follows, with comparative figures for the same date last year within brackets: Spring wheat - Manitoba 59 (73); Saskatchewan 14 (38); Alberta 1 (37); Prairie Provinces 16 (42); Ontario 6 (-); British Columbia 64 (63). Oats - Manitoba 14 (16); Saskatchewan 2 (7); Alberta - (7); Prairie Provinces 3 (8); Ontario 16 (3); British Columbia 53 (46). Barley - Manitoba 10 (15); Saskatchewan 2 (3); Alberta - (4); Prairie Provinces 3 (8); Ontario 11 (3); British Columbia 39 (36).

WINTER-KILLING AND CONDITION OF FALL WHEAT, FALL RYE AND

HAY AND CLOVER MEADOWS

In Ontario, where practically all the fall wheat is grown, it is estimated that 37,000 acres or 5 p.c. of the area sown in the autumn of 1939 were winter-killed, leaving 711,000 acres for harvest in 1940 as compared with 735,000 acres in 1939.

In all Canada, where the area seeded to fall rye in the autumn of 1939 amounted to 768,700 acres, 31,000 acres or 4 p.c. were winter-killed, leaving for harvest 737,700 acres as compared with 890,800 acres harvested in 1939. By provinces the acreages winter-killed and left for harvest are estimated as follows: Ontario 2,000, 77,000; Manitoba 8,000, 119,800; Saskatchewan 19,000, 450,600; Alberta 2,000, 90,300.

During the winter of 1939-40, the following percentages of hay and clover meadows are estimated to have been winter-killed, with corresponding figures for the previous winter within brackets; Canada 4 (4); Prince Edward Island 4 (12); Nova Scotia 2 (5); New Brunswick 4 (5); Quebec 3 (4); Ontario 5 (4); Manitoba 6 (2); Saskatchewan 3 (1); Alberta 1 (1); British Columbia 1 (2).

The condition of fall wheat, fall rye and hay and clover meadows at the end of April, 1940, expressed in percentages of the long-time average yields per acre is as follows, with the condition at April 30, 1939, within brackets: Fall wheat - Ontario 97 (98). Fall rye - Canada 89 (93); Ontario 99 (98); Manitoba 90 (90); Saskatchewan 86 (94); Alberta 98 (93). Hay and clover - Canada 97 (97); Prince Edward Island 102 (95); Nova Scotia 100 (92); New Brunswick 99 (97); Quebec 99 (98); Ontario 96 (98); Manitoba 89 (93); Saskatchewan 88 (96); Alberta 99 (95); British Columbia 104 (98).

Intended Acreages of Principal Crops, May 1, 1940, as
compared with 1939

Crop and Province	Area 1939	P.C. of 1939	Intended area 1940	Crop and Province	Area 1939	P.C. of 1939	Intended area 1940
	acres	P.C.	acres		acres	P.C.	acres
<u>CANADA -</u>				<u>MANITOBA -</u>			
Fall wheat 1/	735,000	97	711,000	Spring wheat	3,201,000	109	3,496,000
Spring wheat	26,021,500	106	27,534,900	Oats	1,377,000	99	1,363,000
All wheat	26,756,500	106	28,245,900	Barley	1,344,000	97	1,304,000
Oats	12,789,900	101	12,880,100	Fall rye 1/	151,800	79	119,800
Barley	4,347,400	103	4,483,600	Spring rye	26,400	108	28,500
Fall rye 1/	890,800	83	737,700	All rye	178,200	83	148,300
Spring rye	211,000	99	209,000	Flaxseed	70,300	128	90,000
All rye	1,101,300	86	946,700	Mixed grains	26,900	108	29,100
Flaxseed	307,100	114	350,300	Potatoes	36,000	102	36,700
Mixed grains	1,218,100	102	1,247,100				
Potatoes	517,700	103	533,700				
<u>P. E. ISLAND -</u>				<u>SASKATCHEWAN -</u>			
Spring wheat	9,700	106	10,300	Spring wheat	14,233,000	107	15,197,000
Oats	145,300	101	146,800	Oats	4,144,000	97	4,020,000
Barley	9,000	110	9,900	Barley	1,149,000	107	1,229,000
Mixed grains	36,800	104	38,300	Fall rye 1/	536,700	84	450,600
Potatoes	37,000	107	39,600	Spring rye	110,300	96	105,900
				All rye	647,000	86	556,500
<u>NOVA SCOTIA -</u>				Flaxseed	187,200	106	198,400
Spring wheat	2,500	104	2,600	Mixed grains	33,900	95	32,200
Oats	91,100	104	94,700	Potatoes	47,800	101	48,300
Barley	10,600	108	11,400				
Mixed grains	6,200	103	6,400				
Potatoes	21,400	107	22,900				
<u>NEW BRUNSWICK -</u>				<u>ALBERTA -</u>			
Spring wheat	7,800	101	7,900	Spring wheat	8,379,000	103	8,630,000
Oats	215,200	102	219,500	Oats	2,706,000	105	2,841,000
Barley	17,000	110	18,700	Barley	1,114,000	108	1,203,000
Mixed grains	3,800	103	3,900	Fall rye 1/	126,600	71	90,300
Potatoes	50,900	103	52,400	Spring rye	62,300	101	62,900
				All rye	188,900	81	153,200
<u>QUEBEC -</u>				Flaxseed	40,000	125	50,000
Spring wheat	34,400	102	35,100	Mixed grains	23,200	106	24,600
Oats	1,717,000	102	1,751,000	Potatoes	25,400	104	26,400
Barley	167,800	105	176,200				
Spring rye	6,600	96	6,300				
Flaxseed	3,100	104	3,200				
Mixed grains	168,400	104	175,100				
Potatoes	138,100	104	143,600				
<u>ONTARIO -</u>				<u>BRITISH COLUMBIA -</u>			
Fall wheat 1/	735,000	97	711,000	Spring wheat	72,100	104	75,000
Spring wheat	82,000	99	81,000	Oats	120,300	104	125,100
All wheat	817,000	97	792,000	Barley	14,000	103	14,400
Oats	2,274,000	102	2,319,000	Spring rye	5,400	100	5,400
Barley	522,000	99	517,000	Flaxseed	300	106	300
Fall rye 1/	75,700	102	77,000	Mixed grains	4,500	100	4,500
Flaxseed	6,200	135	8,400	Potatoes	19,000	104	19,800
Mixed grains	914,400	102	933,000				
Potatoes	142,100	101	144,000				

1/ Harvested area 1939, and area for harvest 1940.

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